

**REMARKS**

1. *Status of the Application.* Claims 1-83 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof. Claims 84-140 are added herein. No new matter is added by the addition of these claims.

\* \* \* \* \*

100274-1340

It is believed that each of the claims now pending in the present application recites elements neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Further, it is believed that the application as a whole is in proper form and condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the application may be placed in even better condition for allowance, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below. Alternatively, or in addition, if the Examiner believes that an Examiner interview would be beneficial, the Examiner is invited to note that the undersigned has ready access to the videoconferencing facilities of the South Central Intellectual Property Partnership at Rice University in Houston, Texas. The inventors and the undersigned would welcome the opportunity to use those facilities to clarify any issues deemed to remain unresolved.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 21-DEC-2001

Hugh R. Kress  
Hugh R. Kress  
Reg. No. 36,574  
Winstead Sechrest & Minick P.C.  
2400 Bank One Center  
910 Travis Street  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 650-2714 (voice)  
(713) 650-2400 (fax)  
ATTORNEYS FOR ASSIGNEE